



sermon discussion guide

For the sermon on March 26-27, 2016

Look Back | Look Down

Begin your time by reviewing the Scriptures and the important points of the sermon taught in **The Row**.

At Easter, we stop to celebrate what many Christians believe to be the single most important moment in history—the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We discussed the critical meanings of the cross over the past few weeks. While the cross is vitally important to our core beliefs, the empty tomb is even more critical to our belief system. What if Jesus had not been raised to life? How does the Resurrection impact what we do and how we approach each day? These are important questions we'll wrestle with in this week's discussion.

Before we jump into our study. Have some fun. Have you ever had a "Bucket List"? What's on it? What about a "Chuck It" list (stuff you know you'll never do)?

Spend a few minutes reading the Easter story as told in **John 20**, then discuss what you see and experience in this passage. Next, read together **1 Corinthians 15.42-44 and 51-58**, the reasoning Paul uses to declare the critical importance of the empty tomb. More in depth questions will follow.

Look In | Look Around

In **The Circle**, consider together what God is asking you to do and encourage each other.

Jesus' Resurrection, The Believer's Resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15.20 reads, "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of all who have fallen asleep." Discuss this quote from this week's *Beyond the Weekend*, Day 2:

"Firstfruits" is a beautiful picture—Jesus is the beginning of a new type of humanity. Jesus, fully God, became fully man—the beauty and mystery of the incarnation. In his death he paid for the sins of all men. In his resurrection he stepped out of the grave a new kind of human. His resurrected body was unlike anything that had ever been created. And his new state is the assured promise of those who have believed in him. In the last days we too shall be resurrected like him.

What effect should the resurrection have on our view of cancer, death, and our mortality? What will our resurrected body be like, according to Paul?

Our Bodies, Our Souls. The body and soul are not the same. The Apostle Paul talks about our body like a seed. "The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable" (1 Corinthians 15.42b). Discuss this except from *Beyond the Weekend*, Day 3:

Our souls are eternal, yet the bodies we inhabit deteriorate and eventually return to the dust they were made from. Yet, Jesus' resurrection sets the groundwork for our perfect resurrection as well. Our natural

bodies will be “rebirthed” as spiritual bodies, like the one Jesus has now, and will one day be rejoined with our souls. It’s in these bodies we’ll live out the rest of eternity.

How does this perspective impact your view of death, heaven, and what is yet to come? Your Bucket List? What does it mean to live with an eternal perspective?

The Difference It Makes. Paul concludes his words on the resurrection of Jesus with this powerful encouragement: “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15.58). How does believing in the resurrection make an impact on how we live when we are tired and discouraged?

Discuss this excerpt from *Beyond the Weekend*, Day 4:

As believers in Jesus, we make extreme sacrifices in this world because we believe in the reality of the world to come. We will exist there in our heavenly bodies for eternity. So Paul’s encouragement is, “Don’t give up, because you know that your hard work has a purpose.”

How does this viewpoint differ from one who says, “I’ve got one life to live, so I better get what I want now”?

What types of “labor” do you think impact eternity? What doesn’t? Where and how do you shift your time and energy from temporary to eternal impact?

Look Forward | Look Out

This coming week, spend time in **The Chair** with God and go engage the broken world around you.

In The Chair this week...

- Read 1 Corinthians 15 this week.
- Reflect and memorize 1 Corinthians 15.58.
- Reflect on what matters in the here-and-now and what matters forever.
- Imagine what life will be like after your body is raised from the dead. Dream about God’s good eternity.
- Rethink your Bucket List based on 1 Corinthians 15.58. What changes? For what can you say...“there will be time for that” as you think about heaven?



ada bible church

616.868.7005 | adabile.org